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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections is subject to the persisted policy scheme; and

if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with the electronic document, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections is subject to the persisted policy scheme; and

if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections is subject to the persisted policy scheme; and

if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 6 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

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Claim 10 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections ~~is subject to the persisted policy scheme~~; and

if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, deleting the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A computerized method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

accepting the electronic document;

identifying one or more rights management protections associated with the electronic document, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;

determining whether the electronic document has exceeded an expiration of the rights management protections ~~is subject to the persisted policy scheme~~; and

if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections, replacing a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 11 wherein the electronic document is an electronic mail (e-mail) communication.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The <u>computerized</u> method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on a scheduled interval.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The <u>computerized</u> method of claim 11 wherein the determining and replacing are performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for updating content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

   accepting the electronic document;

   <u>identifying one or more rights management protections associated therewith, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme;</u>

   determining whether the electronic document <u>has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections</u> ~~is subject to the persisted policy scheme~~; and

   <u>if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections,</u> updating a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document <u>such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections</u>.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A <u>computerized</u> method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, <u>said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme</u>, the <u>computerized</u> method comprising<u>:</u>

   configuring the updating process <u>to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections and</u> to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data <u>such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the rights management protections</u>.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 16 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith, said rights management protections being defined by the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with an indicating piece of data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded rights management protections.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections and to delete the content of the electronic document such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 20 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections and to delete the content of the electronic document data such that the content of the electronic document is unavailable if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computerized method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document, wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the computerized method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining an interval for the updating process to be performed.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The computerized method of claim 24 further comprising defining the updating process to be performed on an ad-hoc basis.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for specifying an updating process for content in an electronic document,

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wherein the updating relies on the existence of a persisted policy scheme, said electronic document having one or more rights management protections associated therewith, said rights management protections defining an expiration according to the persisted policy scheme, the method comprising:

configuring the updating process to identify content in the electronic document that has the one or more rights management protections and to replace a portion of the content of the electronic document with a refreshed copy of the portion of the content of the electronic document such that the electronic document maintains the rights management protections if the electronic document has exceeded the expiration of the rights management protections.